

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of controlling usage of a portable digital device [(14)] having one of an audio [and/]or an image data recording [or capture] function, [(12)] the method including inhibiting operation of said [data recording or capture function] digital device when said portable digital device is located in a specific geographic [location or] region [(10)].

2. (Currently amended) A method according to [Claim] claim 1, wherein at least one [or more] fixed location security [stations (20)] station and[/or] at least one [or more] other portable digital [devices broadcast/transmit] device transmits an inhibiting [or disabling] signal intermittently in the specific geographic [location or] region [(10)], and at least one of the audio [and/]or image function [(12)] of the portable digital device [(14) being] is disabled on receipt of the signal.

3. (Currently amended) A method according to [Claim] claim 1 or 2, wherein [the] said portable digital device [(14)] is configured so that[, once back] when said device is outside the specific geographic [location or] region [(10)], the function [(12)] is restored.

4. (Currently amended) A method according to [Claim] claim 2, [where the] wherein at least one [or more other] portable [devices (14) are] device is used as a [repeaters] repeater to [strengthen/]broaden coverage of the signal [broadcast/]transmitted by [the] at least one [or more] fixed location security stations [(20)].

5. (Currently amended) A method according to [any one of the preceding Claims] claim 1, further including steps of:

monitoring the geographic [location] region of the portable digital device [(14)];

comparing the monitored [location] region with [the] a specific geographical [location or] region [(10)] and

inhibiting operation of said function [(12)] when said portable digital device is in the specific geographic [location or] region.

6. (Currently amended) A method according to [Claim] claim 5, wherein the geographic [location] region of the device [(14)] is monitored by [means of] a navigation module [or functionality such as] selected from the group: GPS GSM, GPRS, MA, UTMS and 3G.

7. (Currently amended) A method according to [Claim 5 or 6] claim 5 , wherein the geographic location of the device [(14)] is monitored by [means of] triangulation of signals from at least two [or more] cellular base stations.

8. (Currently amended) A method according to [any one of the preceding Claims] claim 1 , further including steps of storing [(808)]data relating to [a] said device [(14)]detected as being present [(or that has been present)] in the specific geographical [location or] region [(10)].

9. (Currently amended) A method according to[any one of the preceding Claims] claim 1, wherein [the] said function [(12)] is inhibited for a predetermined period of time before the function can be enabled again.

10. (Currently amended) A method according to [any one of the preceding Claims,] claim 1 wherein the device has a memory and, wherein the method includes steps of:

modifying [(812)] the memory[/store] of the device [(14)]to indicate that the inhibition operation has occurred, and

checking [(704)] whether the memory[/store] has been modified to indicate that the inhibition operation has occurred before allowing access to the data recording [or capture] function [(12)].

11. (Currently amended) A method according to [any one of the preceding Claims] claim 10, wherein the inhibition operation is communicated to the portable digital device [(14)] by means of a signal transmitted over at least one [or more] radio [frequencies, e.g. the signal may be sent using frequencies supported by one or more of] frequency, selected from the group supported by GSM, GPRS, 3G, I- Mode, UTMS, Ultrawideband (UWB) wireless data standard and/or CDMA.

12. (Currently amended) A method according to Claim 11, wherein [the] at least one [or more frequencies] frequency used to transmit the signal [are] is changed at intervals to improve security.

13. (Currently amended) A method according to[any one of the preceding Claims] claim 1, wherein the inhibition operation is communicated to the portable digital device [(14)] by means of a signal transmitted in the form of one of an audio signal[/tone (typically one having a frequency outside normal human hearing range) and/]or a signal transmitted at [one or more] an optical [frequencies. (which can be fixed or modulated)] frequency.

14. (Currently amended) A method according to [any one of the preceding Claims] claim 1, further including a step of installing code on the device [(14)]for performing the control of usage of the device.

15. (Currently Amended) A method according to. Claim 14, wherein the usage control code is installed[by means of being included] in a memory[, processor or another component (e.g. a SIM card)] within the device [(14)]or the usage control code is transmitted to the device by "Over the Air" techniques].

16. (Currently Amended) A method according to [any one of the preceding Claims] claim 1, further including a step of modifying [or deleting] code within the device [(14)] relating to the data recording [or capture] function [(12)] and[/*or*] preventing [such] said code being executed[/*stored*] by the device.

17. (Currently Amended) A method according to [any one of the preceding Claims] claim 1, further including steps of:

detecting disconnection of the device [(14)] from a communications network, and

preventing [and/or] one of modifying a normal store operation and[/*or*] a normal transmission operation relating to captured data upon said disconnection.

18. (Currently Amended) A method according to [any one of the preceding Claims] claim 1, further including steps of:

detecting attempted operation of said data recording [or capture] function when said portable digital device is located in the specific geographic [location or] region, and

preventing a normal store operation [and/or a normal transmission operation] relating to the captured data.

19. A method according to Claim 17 or 18, further including a step of deleting the captured data from the device.

20. (Currently Amended) A method according to [any one of Claims] claim 17 [19], further including a step of transmitting the captured data [and/or details] relating to the device [(and/or a user of the device)] to a security entity.

21. (Currently Amended) A method according to [any one of the preceding Claims] claim 17, further including a step of broadcasting a source-identifying signal to the specific geographical [location or] region.

22. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 21, wherein the source-identifying signal comprises one of an audio tone [(typically one having a frequency that is normally inaudible to humans) and/or the source-identifying signal includes] or a series of optical signals.

23. f(As filed) A method according to Claim 21 or 22, further including steps of: checking if data transmitted over a network includes a recording of the source-identifying signal, and transmitting the data to a security entity instead of its intended recipient.

24. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein a security station [(20)] is fitted on board a vehicle, said security station broadcasting/transmitting an inhibiting or disabling signal intermittently in the specific geographic [location or] region [(10)] on board the vehicle, and at least [the audio and /or image] one function [(12)] of the portable digital device [(14)] being disabled on receipt of the signal.

25. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling usage of a portable digital device [(14)] having a data recording [or capture] function [(12)], the method comprising detecting operation of said data recording [or capture] function, and preventing [and/or modifying] one of a normal store operation and[/or] a normal transmission operation relating to the captured data.

26. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling transmission of data over a communications network, the method comprising steps of:

broadcasting a source-identifying signal to a specific geographical [location or] region;

detecting attempted transmission of data including the source -identifying signal over the network, and

preventing [and/or modifying] the attempted transmission of data including the source-identifying signal.

27. (Currently Amended) A method of storing data relating to devices detected as being present [(or that have been present)] in a specific geographical [location /]region [(10)] and transmitting marketing data to the devices.

28. (Currently Amended) A method of disabling a data capture function [(12)] of a portable digital device [(14)]connectable to a communications network, the method including steps of: detecting disconnection of the device from the network, and preventing [and/or modifying] a normal store operation and[/or] a normal transmission operation relating to captured data upon said disconnection.

29. (Currently Amended) A portable digital device [(14)]including one of audio recording [and/]or imaging, comprising:

[devices (12) and] a means [(16)] for inhibiting operation of said [audio recording and/or imaging devices when said portable digital] device when said device is located in a predetermined geographic [location or] region [(10) and/or in response to an externally generated inhibiting signal].

30. (Currently Amended) A communication system including a security monitoring station [(20)]and one or more portable digital devices [(14)]according to Claim 2.

31. (Currently Amended) A security monitoring base station [(20)]operable to detect presence of a portable digital device [(14)]including one of an audio recording [and/]or imaging devices [(12)]in a prohibited zone [(10)]and to transmit to said portable digital device a signal inhibiting operation of said device[s].

32. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling usage of a portable digital device [(14)] including a data recording [or capture] function [(12)]that is normally disabled, the method comprising enabling operation of said data recording [or capture] function when

said portable digital device is located [within (or outside)] outside a predetermined geographic [location or] region.

33. (Currently Amended) A method for capturing security information relating to a portable digital device [(14)]which includes an imaging [device (12)] function , said method comprising enabling operation of said imaging [device] function in response to an interrogation or enabling signal from a central station.

34.(New) A computer program on a computer readable medium for controlling a portable digital device having a data recording function for capturing at least one of audio or video data, said program comprising:

computer executable instructions for detecting when said portable digital device is located in a specific geographical region; and

computer executable instructions for initiating operation of said data recording/capture function when said digital device is located in said specific geographic region.

35.(New) A computer program on a computer readable medium for controlling a portable digital device including the function of recording at least one of audio and visual imaging data, said program comprising:

computer executable instructions for determining when said portable digital device is located in a predetermined geographic region; and

computer executable instructions for inhibiting operation of said audio recording/imaging device when said device is located in said geographic region.

36.(New) A computer program on a computer readable medium for controlling a portable digital device including a data recording function for at least one of audio or visual data that is normally disabled, said computer program comprising:

computer executable instructions for enabling operation of said data recording function when said portable digital device is located in a predetermined location with respect to a geographic region.

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